

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 H-02

EB-11 RSR-01 /089 W

----- 012913

R 090640 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7187

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 0740

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, IR

SUBJECT: UDF CAUCUSES BEFORE MEET- THE- PEOPLE TOUR

REF: A) KARACHI 0667, B) KARACHI 0732

C) ISLAMABAD 3587, D) ISLAMABAD 2645

1. UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF) ACTION COMMITTEE AND SYMPATHIZERS HELD SERIES OF ROUND- ROBIN MEETINGS AT KARACHI RESIDENCES OF UDF FIGURES MAY 5, 6, 7 -- MAY 5 AT PIR PAGARO' S, MAY 6 AT SHERBAZ KHAN MAZARI' S, MAY 7 AT HASAN MAHMOOD' S-- FOLLOWING GROUP' S APRIL 27 MEETING IN QUETTA AND MAY 3-4 NAP CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING (REFTELS A AND B).

2. AT CLOSE OF MAY 6 MEETING ADOPTION OF TWO RESOLUTIONS ANNOUNCED. ONE RESOLUTION, CLOSELY PARALLEL TO NAP RESOLUTION ON SHAH' S RECENT STATEMENT (REFTEL B), CHARACTERIZES SHAH' S STATEMENT AS DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PAKISTAN AND EXPRESSES SURPRISE GOP HAS NOT YET ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION FROM GOI.

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SECOND RESOLUTION CALLS FOR RELEASE OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL ARRESTED RECENTLY (REFTELS C AND D) AND NOTES THAT ARRESTS AND INTERROGATION OF HUNDREDS OF OFFICERS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD SERVICE RECORDS, HAS PROFOUNDLY UPSET ENTIRE NATION.

3. UDF LEADER PIR PAGARO HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERNOON MAY 8 AT WHICH HE ANNOUNCED 13 DEMANDS OF FRONT TO INSURE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY AND BURIAL OF SPECTRE OF DICTATORSHIP ONCE AND AS XENOR ALL. AIVXR DING TO MAY 9 PRESS THE FRONT' S DEMANDS ARE: IMMEDIATE ENFORCEMENT OF CONSTITUTION; LIFTING OF STATE OF EMERGENCY; RESTORATION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS; HALTING INFLATION; REINSTATEMENT OF NAP/ JUI GOVERNMENT IN BALUCHISTAN; HOLDING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS UNDER CARETAKER GOVERNMENT; REINSTATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS RETIRED UNDER MLR 114; BAN ON LABOR RETRENCHMENT; RELEASE OF DETAINEES; FREEDOM OF THE PRESS; GREATER EFFORTS FOR EARLY RELEASE OF POWS; PLACING OF FEDERAL POLICE UNDER CONTROL OF THE MILITARY; AND HALTING OF SMUGGLING. IN SUBSEQUENT QUESTION AND ANSWER EXCHANGE, PIR STATED UDF HAS NO POSITION ON RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH, BUT HE PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO IT AND UDF ENDORSES RESETTLEMENT OF BIHARIS IN WEST PAKISTAN. IN NEXT ELECTIONS FRONT PER A WILL NOT RUN CANDIDATES, BUT PARLIAMENTARY BOARD WILL BE FORMED TO SELECT CANDIDATES FROM PARTICIPATING PARTIES WHO WILL RUN AS THEIR OWN PARTY CANDIDATES SUPPORTED BY FRONT. PIR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FRONT WOULD WELCOME COOPERATION WITH THE TERIK- I- ISTIQAL (EX- AIR MARSHAL ASGHAR KHAN' S GROUP) AND THE " MANIFESTO GROUP" OF REBEL PPP MEMBERS.

4. CURRENTLY UDF HAS SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETINGS IN HYDERABAD, SIND MAY 9, KARACHI MAY 11 AND LYALLPUR, PUNJAB MAY 16. (SECTION 144 BANNING PUBLIC GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN FIVE PERSONS WAS IMPOSED MAY 8 IN HYDERABAD FOR 30 DAYS.)

5. COMMENT: BIZENJO- MENGAL- BHUTTO MEETING MAY 3 APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED FRONT' S PROGRAM, WHICH EARLIER CALLED FOR TOUR OF UPPER SIND, LOWER PUNJAB AND ON TO LAHORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO COMMENCE FROM KARACHI MAY 7. UDF RESOLUTION REGARDING ARRESTED MILITARY (PARA 2), WHICH NOT PUBLICIZED AS BEING ADDRESSED BY NAP MAY 3-4 WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY REFLECT PUNJABI INFLUENCE IN THE COUNCILS OF THE UDF NOT PRESENT IN NAP CIRCLES. FRONT' S 13 DEMANDS, ANNOUNCED MAY 8, HAVE A LITTLE OF SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AND CONTAIN NO SURPRISES. HOWEVER, ABSENCE

OF SARDAR ATAULLAH KHAN MENGAL AND MIR GHAS BUX
BIZENJO FROM PAGARO' S PRESS CONFERENCE INTERPRETED BY
SOME AS INDICATION OF DIFFERENCES WITHIN RANKS OF THE
FRONT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MENGAL AND BIZENJO STOOD
ASIDE SUSPECTING THAT PIR WOULD ENUNCIATE HIS PERSONAL
POSITION ON RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH WHICH DIRECTLY
CONTRARY TO THAT OF NAP. ALSO, NEITHER MENGAL NOR
BIZENJO ADVOCATE RESETTLEMENT OF BIHARIS IN PAKISTAN.
TIGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KARACH00740
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730538/aaaaiisj.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KARACHI 667, 73 KARACHI 732, 73 ISLAMABAD 3587, 73 ISLAMABAD 2645
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971231
Subject: UDF CAUCUSES BEFORE MEET- THE- PEOPLE TOUR
TAGS: PINT, IR, PK, PFOR, PINT
To: NEA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005